

## DILUTION

If you invest in our common stock, your interest will be diluted to the extent of the difference between the public offering price per share of our common stock and the pro forma as adjusted net tangible book value per share of our common stock after this offering. Our pro forma net tangible book value as of August 31, 2000 was \$46,822,456, or \$0.53 per share of common stock. Pro forma net tangible book value per share represents the amount of total tangible assets less total liabilities, divided by the number of shares of common stock outstanding, after giving effect to the conversion of all outstanding shares of preferred stock and accrued dividends thereon into 54,228,893 shares of common stock upon consummation of this offering. Assuming the sale by us of \_\_\_\_\_ shares of common stock in this offering at an assumed initial public offering price of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share, our pro forma net tangible book value as of August 31, 2000 would have been \$ \_\_\_\_\_, or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share of common stock. This represents an immediate and substantial increase in net tangible book value of approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share to existing stockholders and an immediate and substantial dilution of approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share to new investors purchasing the shares in this offering. The following table illustrates the per share dilution:

Assumed initial public offering price per share	\$ _____
Pro forma net tangible book value per share as of August 31, 2000	\$0.53
Increase per share attributable to new investors	_____
Pro forma as adjusted net tangible book value per share after this offering	_____
Dilution per share to new investors	\$ _____

The following table summarizes, on a pro forma basis as of August 31, 2000, the number of shares of common stock (including all shares of convertible preferred stock, which will be converted into 54,228,893 shares of common stock upon the closing of the offering) purchased from us, the total consideration paid to us and the average price per share paid by existing stockholders and by new investors. The information presented is based upon an assumed initial public offering price of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share for shares purchased in this offering, before deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses:

	Shares Purchased		Total Consideration		Average Price Per Share
	Number	Percent	Amount	Percent	
Existing stockholders	54,228,893				
	88,108,650	61.5 %	\$126,000,000	%	\$ 1.43
New investors	33,877,757	38.5			
Total	88,108,650	100.0%	\$ _____	100.0%	

The discussion and tables above exclude:

- 1,873,477 and 1,910,947 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants and rights to purchase Series C and D mandatorily redeemable convertible preferred stock, respectively, and assumed immediate conversion thereof into common stock with a weighted average exercise price of \$4.49 per share;
- 116,000 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants issued to various third parties with a weighted average exercise price of \$2.50; and
- shares of common stock issuable if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full.

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At August 31, 2000, we had 2,550,780 shares of common stock available for future issuance under our stock plans through December 31, 2000 plus an additional 15,000,000 shares of common stock available for issuance effective January 1, 2001.

To the extent these options and warrants are exercised, there will be further dilution to the new investors. If the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full, the number of shares held by new investors will increase to shares, or % of the total number of shares of common stock outstanding after this offering.

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**SELECTED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

In the table below, we provide you with selected historical financial data of StarBand Communications Inc. We have prepared this information using the financial statements of StarBand Communications Inc. for the period from January 11, 2000 (inception) to August 31, 2000. These financial statements have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors.

When you read this selected historical financial data, it is important that you read along with it the historical financial statements and related notes, as well as the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

Period from  
January 11, 2000  
(inception) through  
August 31, 2000

(in thousands, except for  
share and per share data)

**Statement of Operations Data:**

**Revenues:**

Internet access	\$	3
Customer premises equipment and installation		4

Total revenues		7
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**Costs and expenses:**

Network		4,149
Customer premises equipment and installation		22,707
Sales and marketing		14,822
General and administrative (exclusive of non-cash compensation expense shown below)		25,862
Non-cash compensation		301
Depreciation		742

Total costs and expenses		68,584
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Loss from operations		(68,577)
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Non-operating income, net		1,728
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Loss before provision for income taxes		(66,848)
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Provision for income taxes		—
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Net loss		(66,848)
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Preferred stock dividends and accretion		(15,245)
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Net loss attributable to common stockholders	\$	(82,094)
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Basic and diluted loss per share	\$	(4.06)
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Shares used in the calculation of basic and diluted loss per share		20,232,428
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As of  
August 31, 2000

(in thousands)

**Balance Sheet Data:**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	68,303
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		90,559

Total		158,862
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Working capital		32,602
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Total assets		196,512
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Total debt		81,089
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Total mandatorily redeemable convertible preferred stock		142,870
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Total stockholders' deficit		(76,770)
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### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

*You should read the following discussion and analysis in conjunction with "Selected Financial Information" and the financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus. This discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. See "Forward-Looking Statements." Our actual results could differ materially from those discussed here. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include those discussed in "Risk Factors" as well as those discussed elsewhere in this prospectus.*

#### Overview

StarBand is the first nationwide provider of two-way, always-on, high-speed Internet access via satellite to residential and small office/home office customers. We were founded on January 11, 2000 by Spacenet Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Gilat, and began offering our services in April 2000. Since our inception we have:

- entered into distribution agreements with Microsoft and EchoStar;
- deployed and tested our scalable nationwide consumer satellite network;
- installed and tested more than 9,000 StarBand systems at test locations with pilot program participants and retail distributors, including approximately 4,700 residential and home office consumer locations, 1,600 DISH retailer locations and 3,600 RadioShack stores;
- trained over 8,000 third-party installers;
- raised \$126 million of equity financing and also arranged debt financing;
- leased 23 transponders on existing satellites; and
- hired over 127 employees.

*Elsewhere in this document they say  
20,000 subscribers/transponder, therefore this  
this represents capacity for:  
460,000 subscribers*

We have successfully completed pilot testing our network and are launching our service nationwide in the fourth quarter of 2000. We will initially offer our branded retail service through EchoStar, and co-branded wholesale service with Microsoft for distribution at RadioShack stores.

We have only a limited operating history upon which you can evaluate our prospects and have experienced net losses of approximately \$66.8 million since our inception in January 2000. We expect that we will continue to incur net losses over at least the next few years as we continue to incur substantial subscriber acquisition costs, develop our sales and marketing and administrative organizations, expand our product offerings and experience continued depreciation charges relating

to the network infrastructure. We cannot assure you that we will achieve or sustain profitability or positive cash flow from operations.

Our future financial performance and our ability to achieve positive operating cash flow will depend on a number of factors, some of which we cannot control. We believe that improvements in our financial performance depend largely on our ability to:

- build our subscriber base rapidly and cost-effectively;
- provide reliable and high-quality services at competitive prices;
- offer additional high-margin value-added content delivery services;
- develop and implement technology to improve our satellite capacity cost per subscriber;
- attract qualified personnel;
- reduce cost and increase the volume of subscribers per transponder with next-generation technology;
- minimize subscriber turnover; and

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- identify and integrate the necessary administrative and operations support systems, including installation and customer care, to manage our growth effectively.

#### *Revenues*

We expect to derive most of our revenues for the foreseeable future from monthly Internet access fees paid by our subscribers and from fees paid by MSN or others for our wholesale service. We will also receive revenue from the sale of our customer premises equipment. In the future, we also expect to derive revenues from value-added content delivery services, such as the sale of music, movies, software and other rich media content through our multicast service.

We are currently offering our network services through both retail and wholesale channels to maximize our ability to take advantage of our first-to-market presence to rapidly acquire subscribers. The retail channel generates higher revenue streams per user than the wholesale channel. Our wholesale channel provides us additional scale for our business while minimizing the subsidies and other costs of subscriber acquisition.

*Retail Channel.* Upon our commercial launch in the fourth quarter of 2000, we will sell our services directly to retail subscribers, typically with a minimum one-year contract term. These subscribers will pay monthly fees for the service, initially ranging from \$59.99 to \$69.99, which we anticipate will decrease over time as high-speed Internet access alternatives become more widely

available. Typically, retail StarBand subscribers must purchase the customer premises equipment for an initial suggested retail price of \$399, including the antenna, the modem and all necessary hardware. This price reflects a substantial subsidy from us.

*Wholesale Channel.* In the wholesale channel, the reseller purchases the customer premises equipment from us. The wholesale price is initially lower than our cost for the equipment, though we expect our cost to decrease due to volume discounts. We also charge an additional fee for network services, second-level technical support and other optional services if requested by the reseller. Our first wholesale partner, MSN, purchases the customer premises equipment at a price starting at \$1,100 per unit, which we expect to decline pursuant to our agreement with them. This agreement provides for pricing of network services that we will provide to MSN which will generate losses. We believe these losses will decrease as our network services costs per subscriber decrease. We view these early stage losses as an investment in building a large subscriber base with our strategic investor, and we intend to sell value-added services to these subscribers from which we expect to generate higher-margin revenues.

#### *Costs and Expenses*

*At 20,000 subscribers per transponder, equals \$1.50 to \$10.00 per month per subscriber*  
*Network.* Our network expense is primarily a function of satellite capacity expenses which consist of satellite transponder lease payments and network operations costs such as hardware depreciation, telecommunications costs and personnel expenses related to our customer support center. We believe that the type of satellite capacity we use generally ranges in cost from \$150,000 to \$200,000 per month per transponder. We are negotiating the terms of leases for our satellite capacity and expect to obtain lease rates at or below the bottom of this range.

We estimate that we can currently support approximately 7,500 subscribers per satellite transponder. Our goal is to increase the number of subscribers per transponder to approximately 20,000 through the implementation of software upgrades currently under development. We will continue to add satellite capacity as necessary to meet the bandwidth requirements of additional StarBand network subscribers. As we acquire transponder capacity to prepare for additional subscribers, we may be forced to lease capacity some time prior to our need for such capacity. These leases would be subject to availability in the open market at potentially less favorable prices.

*Customer Premises Equipment and Installation.* In the retail channel, we are heavily subsidizing the retail consumer price of the customer premises equipment. We expect that over time, the customer premises equipment subsidy will decrease substantially as the cost of the equipment to us decreases due to volume discounts and improvements and efficiencies in the technology. We have negotiated an agreement

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with Gilat to purchase customer premises equipment. Our agreement with Gilat contains milestones that reduce the price we pay per unit as the total number of units we purchase exceeds specified levels. We therefore expect our costs to decrease over time. In the wholesale channel, we are presently subsidizing limited quantities of customer premises equipment to MSN. In the future, we

expect to provide little or no customer premises equipment subsidy to MSN or any other wholesale channels. Periodically we may offer free or subsidized installations to new customers as part of sales promotions or discounts aimed at acquiring new subscribers.

***Sales and Marketing.*** These expenses consist primarily of in-store retailer demonstration units, sales personnel costs, trade shows, distributor training, advertising, branding, market research, promotional literature and other public relations expenses. Much of our sales and marketing expenses for the current period are due to marketing campaigns to provide in-store retailer demonstration units. In late 2000, we will begin to incur marketing expenses associated with our nationwide service launch. Marketing, branding-related and sales expenses will rise for the foreseeable future as we expand our sales and marketing organization and aggressively pursue our targeted marketing campaign. We will continue to grow our sales and marketing infrastructure to improve the rate and efficiency of subscriber acquisition. We anticipate that the activation fees and/or commissions that we pay to our retail distribution partners that generate new subscribers will range from \$100 to \$300 per subscriber. In addition to the activation fees, we anticipate that some retail distributors will receive ongoing royalties of \$1 to \$3 per subscriber per month so long as the subscriber uses our services.

***General and Administrative.*** These expenses consist of salaries and benefits for our administration, executive, finance, legal, and human resources departments, including their associated overheads, as well as outside accounting and legal expenses and depreciation of fixed assets. Many general and administrative services are provided to us by Gilat and Spacenet, including information technology, office space and legal, finance and human resources services. For operational reasons during our development stage, all of our employees were leased from Spacenet. Substantially all of these personnel will be transferred to our direct payroll and no longer be leased from Spacenet prior to the end of 2000.

We expect the general and administrative expenses that we pay to Gilat and Spacenet will decrease over time as we develop our own internal administration and other resources. We believe our payments to Gilat and Spacenet for general and administrative assistance payments approximate the actual costs incurred by Gilat and Spacenet to provide those services to us. We also expect that our general and administrative expenses as a whole will increase over time and possibly exceed revenues for some time as we establish and expand our administrative infrastructure to meet the demands of our personnel and our growing subscriber base.

***Non-Cash Compensation.*** These costs are primarily attributable to stock options granted to employees below fair market value and the fair value of options and warrants granted to third parties, including consultants, leased employees and others. The vesting period for the majority of the options is four years. We expect non-cash compensation expense to increase substantially in future periods as options which were granted at below fair market value continue to vest over the vesting period of the options granted through August 31, 2000 due to the large number of options granted in late August for which very little amortization has been expensed. In the future, StarBand intends to issue options at fair market value in order to minimize non-cash compensation expense.

#### **Our Accounting for Revenues, Costs, Expenses and Subscriber Acquisition Costs**

We consider the sale of customer premises equipment, related installation and monthly Internet access to be a multi-element, single arrangement with our subscribers. Total revenue from the subscriber arrangements are recognized as earned on a straight-line basis over the service period,

which is the shorter of the contractual term of the subscription period or expected subscription period. We generally begin recognizing revenues on subscriber arrangements upon activation of Internet access. Some service contracts include cancellation clauses which permit the subscriber to cancel the service without substantial penalty

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during the initial service period. We defer revenue from those contracts and recognize it on a straight-line basis over the service period remaining after the risk-free cancellation period.

The connection of the subscriber to our network requires that certain equipment, such as customer premises equipment, be installed at the subscribers' location. The cost of customer premises equipment and installation are generally capitalized and related revenues are deferred. These costs and revenues are recognized on a straight-line basis over the service period. The cost of this equipment generally exceeds the amount that is charged to the subscriber. We are currently expensing the excess of costs over deferred revenue as the realization of future cash flows is not assured due to our lack of sufficient operating history. This accounting policy conforms with Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 101. See "—Recent Accounting Pronouncements."

In our industry, subscriber acquisition costs are an important measure of the efficiency with which subscribers are added to the network. Our subscriber acquisition costs will consist of customer premises equipment subsidies together with activation fees and sales commissions which we report as part of sales and marketing. We expect our subscriber acquisition costs will decrease over time as hardware subsidies decrease. We anticipate that we will not incur subscriber acquisition costs in the wholesale channel.

**Results of Operations from January 11, 2000 (Inception) through August 31, 2000**

Our inception period operating results set forth in our financial statements that appear elsewhere in this prospectus are not indicative of our future operations, as substantially all subscribers were participants in our pilot program and were not required to pay a significant amount, if any, for monthly access, customer premises equipment or installation.

**Revenues**

*Does the FCC pilot license for services?  
allow StarBand to charge for services?*

Our total revenues for the period from inception through August 31, 2000 were \$6,945, attributable to the ratable recognition of fees associated with customer premises equipment, installation and monthly access services for installed subscribers whose cancellation period has expired. During this period, pursuant to our accounting policies, we deferred revenues of \$1.7 million, derived almost entirely from the sales of customer premises equipment to customers purchasing service through the EchoStar retail channel and a small number of customers from other pilot groups. The absence of significant revenues from monthly Internet access fees is a reflection of the pilot program currently in place that gives subscribers a number of months of free service prior to the start of their commercial service and our deferral of revenues. We expect to begin receiving monthly access fees in the fourth quarter of 2000 or the first quarter of 2001.



### *Costs and Expenses*

*Network.* Our network expense was \$4.1 million for the period ended August 31, 2000. This amount was attributable to our satellite capacity expenses, network operations costs including hardware depreciation, telecommunications costs and personnel expenses related to our customer support center.

*Customer Premises Equipment and Installation.* Customer premises equipment costs, including subsidies, for the period ended August 31, 2000 were \$19.8 million. These costs were unusually high on a per subscriber basis due to our packaging of a personal computer with the antenna for all pilot subscribers, and due to our inability to achieve volume-related price discounts for our equipment purchases. We also consider installation costs as a component of our customer premises equipment expense. During our pilot program we heavily subsidized installation costs for our pilot subscribers. A significant component of our installation costs was the cost of training third parties to install our customer premises equipment. The total costs for installation services were \$2.9 million for the period ended August 31, 2000.

*Sales and Marketing.* Our sales and marketing expenses were \$14.8 million for the period ended August 31, 2000. These expenses reflect significant personnel-related expenses such as salaries for sales and marketing personnel and commissions, recruiting fees and other costs of hiring, as well as a significant cost to provide and install several thousand in-store retailer demonstration units.

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*General and Administrative.* Our general and administrative expenses were \$25.9 million for the period ended August 31, 2000. These expenses primarily consist of salaries to our executive employees, and payment for services provided directly to us by Gilat, Spacenet and their employees. Services provided directly to us by Gilat, Spacenet and their employees made up approximately \$14.3 million, or 51% of the total general and administrative costs and included expenses and/or fees for sales, marketing, engineering, information systems, logistics and accounting and legal activities performed for or on our behalf.

*Non-Cash Compensation.* Non-cash compensation expense through August 31, 2000 was \$0.3 million, attributable to the portion of the deferred compensation amortized in the period. Non-cash compensation expense is accrued for stock options granted to employees, non-employees and third parties, and then amortized over the vesting period of the options.

### *Interest Income*

Net interest income for the period was \$1.7 million. Interest expense of \$1.6 million was offset by interest income of \$3.3 million. Interest income was due to interest earned on equity funds and on the proceeds of the funds in a restricted bank account.

### *Net Loss*

Due to the foregoing, we had a net loss of \$66.8 million for the period ended August 31, 2000. Our net loss attributable to common stockholders was \$82.1 million, or \$4.06 per share. Our pro forma net loss and net loss attributable to common stockholders was \$66.8 million for the period ended August 31, 2000, or \$1.23 per share.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our principal capital requirements to date have been to fund:

- working capital needs;
- our pilot program testing of our network;
- sales and marketing;
- administrative infrastructure; and
- capital expenditures.

We have funded our liquidity needs during the period from inception through August 31, 2000 through a combination of funds provided by private equity placements and revenues generated from our limited operations to date. Net cash used for operating activities for the period ended August 31, 2000 was \$48.2 million. Our use of cash for operating activities was primarily associated with the acquisition of customer premises equipment inventory, deferred charges for customer premises equipment installed at subscriber sites, prepaid fees for transponder capacity, sales and marketing, and the purchase of services from Gilat and Spacenet. For the period from January 11, 2000 (inception) through August 31, 2000 we incurred approximately \$95.0 million of reimbursable expenses and capital expenditures for equipment supplied and services rendered to us by Gilat and Spacenet. As of August 31, 2000, we have paid approximately \$38.7 million to Spacenet and approximately \$20.0 million to Gilat for such costs and expenses. We have accrued the remaining \$36.3 million we owe to Spacenet and Gilat at August 31, 2000 and are required to pay this amount in October 2000.

Net cash used in investing activities for the period ended August 31, 2000 was \$99.1 million. This amount includes \$89.6 million from the proceeds of the issuance of long-term debt, which was placed in a restricted account pursuant to the terms of the debt and is reflected in our financial statements in "restricted cash and cash equivalents." The balance of \$9.5 million was used in the purchase of capital assets, including enterprise resource planning software and customer premises equipment.

Net cash flows from financing activities for the period ended August 31, 2000 were \$215.6 million, consisting of \$126.0 million from sales of common and preferred stock and \$89.6 million from net proceeds

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of bank loans. We have a senior debt facility of \$90.0 million with Bank Leumi USA, maturing in June 2003 with interest at LIBOR plus 75 basis points, equivalent to 7.5625% at August 31, 2000, payable quarterly and with a principal balloon upon maturity. The funds drawn under this facility are reflected in our financial statements in "restricted cash and cash equivalents." On September 8, 2000, the First International Bank of Israel and The Israel Discount Bank joined as lenders to the facility and extended an additional \$30.0 million each, bringing the total amount of financing to \$150.0 million. This facility is secured by substantially all our assets other than our rights under the transponder leases, and is subject to significant affirmative and negative covenants including restrictions on prepayment, restrictions on the incurrence of further debt and a limitation on aggregate capital expenditures.

We are currently renegotiating these bank credit facilities and expect to repay the First International Bank of Israel facility with restricted cash attributable to that facility upon consummation of this offering. The funds drawn down under these facilities will appear as "restricted cash and cash equivalents." We are also currently negotiating an additional bank facility for approximately \$100 million to prefund our satellite capacity lease with Loral Skynet.

We believe that the net proceeds from this offering, together with our existing cash, available credit facilities and future revenue generated from operations, will be sufficient to fund our operating losses, capital expenditures, subscriber acquisition costs and working capital requirements for the next twelve months. We expect that our business will continue to realize significant operating losses over the next few years.

We expect that additional financing will be required in the future. We expect to raise financing through some combination of commercial bank borrowings, leasing, vendor financing or the private or public sale of equity or debt securities. Our capital requirements may vary based upon the timing and success of the commercial launch of our network and as a result of regulatory, technological and competitive developments or if:

- demand for our services or our anticipated cash flow from operations is less or more than expected;
- our development plans or projections change or prove to be inaccurate; or
- we engage in any acquisitions.

Equity or debt financing may not be available to us on favorable terms or at all. See "Risk Factors — Our continued operations may require us to seek substantial amounts of additional capital, which may not be available to us."

## **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In December 1999, the Securities and Exchange Commission released Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 101, *Revenue Recognition in Financial Statements*. SAB No. 101 is effective in the fiscal quarter commencing October 1, 2000 and provides clarification of existing authoritative guidance with regard to the manner and timing of revenue recognition. We elected to adopt the guidance provided by SAB No. 101 effective upon our commencement of operations. Future

interpretations of SAB No. 101 will be evaluated upon issuance but are not expected to have a material effect on future operations.

On March 16, 2000, the Emerging Issues Task Force issued EITF 99-19, *Recording Revenue Gross as a Principal versus Net as an Agent*. The EITF discusses various indicators that a company would use in determining whether to record revenue on a gross versus net basis. We considered these indicators in developing our revenue recognition policies.

SFAS No.133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities," requires companies to record derivatives on the balance sheet as assets or liabilities, measured at fair market value. Gains or losses resulting from changes in the values of those derivatives are accounted for depending on the use of the derivative and whether it qualifies for hedge accounting. The key criterion for hedge accounting is that the hedging relationship must be highly effective in achieving offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows.

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SFAS No.133 is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2000. We believe that the adoption of SFAS No.133 will have no material effect on our financial statements.

#### **Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

Our major market risk exposure is to changing interest rates. Our policy is to manage interest rates through the use of a combination of fixed and floating rate debt. We have evaluated the use of interest rate swap contracts to manage our exposure to fluctuations in interest rates on our floating-rate debt, substantially all of which is based on LIBOR. At August 31, 2000, we have determined that the current variable rate debt is the most effective form of debt, and we have not sought to cap such interest rate exposure.

We do not believe that we currently have any other material exposure to any market risks.

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### **BUSINESS**

#### **Overview**

StarBand is the first nationwide provider of two-way, always-on, high-speed Internet access via satellite to residential and small office/ home office customers. We have deployed a proven and scalable network using leased capacity on existing communications satellites which we believe can provide our StarBand service today to any location in the United States with a clear view of the

southern sky. We are targeting our StarBand service primarily to rural and suburban households with few or no high-speed Internet access alternatives. We estimate that approximately 55 million households do not presently have access to cable modem or digital subscriber line, or DSL, technology. Our basic service package offers unlimited access time at an affordable monthly flat rate and can be bundled with EchoStar's DISH direct broadcast satellite television service. We have extensively tested our service offering at over 9,000 locations and, in combination with our strategic partners, are launching service nationwide in the fourth quarter of 2000.

Our high-speed Internet access service benefits from the unique abilities of our one-hop satellite network architecture. Unlike terrestrial networks, satellite networks possess the ability to multicast, or simultaneously send common content, to millions of subscribers. Our solution is unique because it delivers high bandwidth content directly to the personal computer or other storage device at a subscriber's home. We can therefore expand the edge of the Internet directly to our subscribers and avoid potential congestion inherent in the terrestrial network. We intend to use our multicasting services to aggregate and filter high quality content and create an unparalleled experience for our subscribers. We will multicast content such as music, movies, software and emerging multimedia content at significantly higher speeds than existing broadband alternatives and, in 2001, we expect to introduce the StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup>, a personalized high-speed digital delivery service, significantly enhancing our subscribers' experience and generating additional revenue opportunities.

Our strategic partners and founding investors, Gilat Satellite Networks, Microsoft Corporation and EchoStar Communications have played key roles in our development by providing us access to:

- proprietary proven technology;
- a large existing customer base;
- strong consumer brand names; and
- broad retail and wholesale distribution channels.

To date, we have raised \$126 million of equity from our strategic partners and founding investors.

### **Market Opportunity**

We believe that we have a substantial business opportunity as a result of the following four factors:

- growing use of the Internet;
- large and growing demand for high-speed Internet services;
- limitations of existing broadband alternatives; and
- acceptance of satellite services by consumers.

#### *Growing Use of the Internet*

The Internet has grown rapidly since the early 1990s to become a global medium that enables millions of people to obtain and share information, programming, products and services as well as communicate and conduct business electronically. Yankee Group projects that the number of Internet-connected households in the United States will grow at a compound annual growth rate of 17% from

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approximately 33 million in 1999 to approximately 71 million in 2004. An industry source projects that U.S. Internet service provider revenues will grow from \$17.7 billion in 1999 to \$60.5 billion in 2004.

#### *Large and Growing Demand for High-Speed Internet Services*

While the vast majority of consumers still access the Internet through dial-up connections, there is a growing demand for high-speed alternatives. According to Yankee Group, the number of broadband subscribers in the United States grew from 1.6 million at the end of 1999 to just over 3.0 million in July 2000. Pioneer Consulting estimates the number of broadband residential subscribers in the United States will grow from 6.2 million in 2000 to 44.2 million by the end of 2005, a compound annual growth rate of 48%.

We believe this growing demand is driven by consumers who are frustrated by dial-up connections or are used to the benefits of always-on, high-speed connectivity in the workplace and are now demanding comparable services in the home. According to Yankee Group, consumers interested in high-speed Internet access rank high-speed and an always-on connection as the two most important characteristics of Internet access. In addition, consumers increasingly want access to rich Internet content that requires higher-speed connections than dial-up provides, including audio, video, multimedia and interactive services. Many companies are developing specific content to exploit the characteristics of high-speed access and several broadband-only portals have emerged that require high-speed connections to access the full range of their available rich content.

#### *Limitations of Existing Broadband Alternatives*

Currently, no broadband Internet access providers serve consumers on a fully nationwide basis. Despite the high profile rollouts of DSL and cable modem services, Yankee Group estimates that approximately 55 million U.S. households currently have no terrestrial broadband access services available to them and in 2004, cable modem and DSL will be unavailable to 29 million and 33 million homes, respectively. These technologies require the large-scale upgrade of facilities at every central office or cable point-of-presence that serves a particular neighborhood, making it complex and costly for them to build out their networks and provision their services.

Existing terrestrial networks also suffer from the cost and congestion associated with the multiple connections necessary to deliver content from the source to the user. When Internet connection points, such as servers or routers, receive data that exceed their capacity, portions of the

data may be lost and quality of service may deteriorate. For example, rich media streams will often stop and restart while waiting for the lost data to arrive. As a result, other content distribution networks provide solutions that push common content to thousands of storage servers spread throughout the existing Internet infrastructure. While helping to improve the performance of terrestrial access networks, these solutions are still vulnerable to congestion in the network created by multiple connections between the closest storage server and the Internet user.

#### *Acceptance of Satellite Services by Consumers*

The introduction of direct broadcast satellite television in 1994 was one of the most successful rollouts of a consumer electronics product. According to The Satellite Broadcasting and Communication Association, the number of direct broadcast satellite television subscribers grew from 0.6 million in 1994 to 11.4 million in 1999 in the United States. The success of direct broadcast satellite television demonstrates U.S. consumers' acceptance of satellite technology for home use as a mainstream alternative to terrestrial services such as cable, particularly in regions outside the largest urban centers, where direct broadcast satellite television has seen its most significant market penetration.

High-speed Internet access using satellite technology is a compelling alternative to DSL, cable modem and dial-up services in many areas. Pioneer Consulting estimates that the U.S. satellite high-speed access market will grow from \$170 million in 1999 to \$13.2 billion in 2005, a compound annual growth rate of 107%. Pioneer further projects that \$7.8 billion, almost 60% of the market in 2005, will be generated from consumer access fees.

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#### **The StarBand Solution**

Our nationwide network is designed to provide high-speed Internet access to meet the demands of underserved, rural and suburban markets where broadband alternatives are limited. We provide our service through a small satellite dish installed at the subscriber's home and connected to communications electronics located either in the subscriber's personal computer or in a stand-alone StarBand modem. Our solution offers:

- reliable high-speed, always-on access;
- an unparalleled subscriber experience; and
- nationwide and scalable infrastructure.

#### *Reliable High-Speed, Always-On Access*

We believe our offering represents a significant improvement over alternatives available in our target markets. Our service offering is designed to maximize the speed available to subscribers while maintaining an affordable price. We are initially offering our standard high-speed access at

downstream speeds from the Internet to the subscriber of up to 500 kilobits per second, with a peak-hour service goal of at least 150 kilobits per second downstream, and upstream speeds from the subscriber to the Internet of up to 150 kilobits per second. In the future, we will also offer Internet access at higher speeds to subscribers who choose our premium services. Subscribers will also have access to multicast content, initially at speeds of one megabit per second or more, which we expect to increase to 40 megabits per second upon introduction of our second-generation network architecture. We also plan to offer our subscribers flat-rate pricing regardless of the amount of time they spend on-line, subject to our standard subscriber agreement.

Our always-on service provides our subscribers with immediate access to the Internet and the content that they wish to view, without the need for a phone line. Because our network is independent of terrestrial infrastructure, there is no need to dedicate a phone line to Internet use, to wait for a dial-up connection to be established or to qualify customers based upon the quality and condition of their telephone or cable lines.

We have based our solution upon the proven technology of our founding partner, Gilat, which is a leading provider of reliable satellite-based networks for hundreds of corporations and enterprises worldwide and has extensive experience in designing and operating satellite networks. Gilat's technology enables an effective and highly reliable data networking environment that is easy to install at the subscriber's home or office and allows for quick service activation.

#### *Unparalleled Subscriber Experience*

We believe we will deliver an unparalleled subscriber experience by offering multicast content and the StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> features with our two-way, always-on, high-speed Internet access. Our platform enables high-speed broadcast, or multicast, of music, movies, software and emerging multimedia content simultaneously to multiple subscribers, utilizing the same downstream bandwidth, a feature not currently available on a nationwide basis from terrestrial services. Popular live Internet events such as fashion shows, sporting events and concerts create significant backbone congestion or even crash services, as many users simultaneously seek to connect individually to the source of the content. While terrestrial companies may use satellite technology to relieve backbone congestion by multicasting and caching content at their local offices, our solution extends the multicast all the way to the subscriber, avoiding last-mile bottlenecks and providing our subscribers with high-performance access to the desired content.

In 2001, we intend to introduce the StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup>, the first high-speed digital content delivery service for consumers, which will allow subscribers to order and schedule the delivery of a wide array of programming, products and services over our network. The StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> will deliver ultra-high-speed multicast content and e-commerce products for use by subscribers immediately or on a scheduled or

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subscription basis. Our subscribers will be able to receive and store that Internet content on their personal computers according to predefined personal preferences.



Subscribers who purchase our Internet access service bundled with EchoStar's DISH direct broadcast satellite television service will also enjoy a single satellite dish solution to meet their high-speed Internet and television entertainment demands. This bundled offer provides a viable alternative to local cable monopolies and provides subscribers with the convenience of a single monthly invoice for their Internet access and television services. For subscribers who purchase bundled service, installers will position the satellite antenna to receive signals from multiple satellites with one set of cables connected to a DISH television set-top box and a second set of cables connected to the subscriber's StarBand system.

#### *Nationwide and Scalable Infrastructure*

Upon our nationwide market launch in the fourth quarter of 2000, we will offer high-speed Internet access to any customer at any location with a clear view of the southern sky, which we estimate includes approximately 90% of all households in the United States. We believe we can introduce our service easily and cost efficiently across the United States even in sparsely populated areas and without extensive capital expenditures. The nationwide availability of our service also will allow potential customers, including large corporations with employees in locations across the country, to subscribe to residential high-speed Internet access from a single provider.

The network can be scaled centrally without any visits to our subscribers to upgrade their hardware or software. Unlike terrestrial services, we do not need to manage, equip or interconnect hundreds of local office switching centers across the country. In addition, we benefit from end-to-end control of the network from a central location and do not depend upon a terrestrial infrastructure that is operated and controlled by third parties. As a result, we believe we have a better ability to manage quality of service and provide our network services than our terrestrial competitors. Because our system delivers communications from a central network operations center via satellite, we can increase the overall network capacity by simply adding equipment to the network operations facility, increasing the capacity of its connection to the Internet backbone and increasing our space segment capacity. We lease satellite capacity and can therefore increase that amount incrementally when our subscriber base grows.

#### **Our Strategy**

Our mission is to become the leading nationwide provider of two-way high-speed Internet access via satellite and to create a new category of Internet service which combines high-speed access with our multicast content delivery service. We intend to implement the following strategies to achieve this goal:

##### *Rapidly Expand Our Subscriber Base*

As the first national provider of two-way, always-on, high-speed Internet access via satellite to residential, small office, and home office users, we intend to rapidly build a nationwide subscriber base. We are leveraging our powerful existing wholesale and retail distribution channels, including approximately 7,000 RadioShack stores and 20,000 DISH retailers, to build this subscriber base. While these channels will initially focus on attracting new customers, we also intend to market our services to MSN's and DISH's existing base of approximately 3 million and 4.5 million subscribers, respectively. We intend to leverage the installed base and marketing activities of our affiliate, Spacenet, to identify and capture corporate-sponsored home worker and Internet access

employee benefit opportunities. Our emphasis on quickly building a substantial and growing subscriber base will help lower our cost to serve each incremental subscriber as we spread our fixed network costs over a larger base of subscribers. A large base of subscribers will also provide us with significant additional opportunities to sell higher-margin value-added services and an enhanced ability to attract premium content providers to our network.

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*Implement a Targeted Marketing Plan to Attract Subscribers*

We are initially implementing an aggressive and targeted marketing campaign directed primarily at promoting our service to potential users in underserved, rural and suburban markets where access to flat-rate Internet service providers and other broadband alternatives is limited. We plan to build nationwide brand presence, especially through the expected media coverage of StarBand's launch as the first available nationwide two-way high-speed satellite Internet service. The majority of our marketing budget will be reserved for media that directly target prospective subscribers in local markets. We expect that our initial focus will primarily include local print, radio and billboard advertisements that support our retailers by driving potential subscribers to their stores. In addition, we have planned an aggressive direct marketing program aimed at the approximately 4.5 million existing DISH direct broadcast satellite television subscribers. We are also targeting the estimated 4 million households in states with local regulations that require metered service charges for every phone call, including local calls, causing dial-up customers to pay per-minute telephone charges for their Internet use.

*Maintain a Low-Cost and Capital-Efficient Business Model*

We have designed and are operating the network around a low-cost and capital-efficient business model. For example, by leasing satellite capacity on existing communications satellites for our network rather than investing the significant time and capital necessary to design, launch and operate a proprietary fleet of satellites, we have significantly limited our capital costs without the risk associated with deploying new satellites. By utilizing Gilat's network solution, we benefit from Gilat's significant investment of time and resources to develop this technology. We have partnered with companies like MSN and EchoStar to efficiently reach potential customers at a lower cost than we could on our own. As we grow our subscriber base, we will further lower our costs by working with Gilat and other partners to develop next-generation equipment and satellite capacity. We believe that our low-cost and capital-efficient business model will ultimately provide for higher returns on investment and continue to be a key competitive advantage by allowing us to allocate the majority of our resources to acquire subscribers rather than build network infrastructure.

*Develop Opportunities to Sell Higher-Margin Value-Added Services*

We intend to generate high-margin revenues by providing optional value-added services that take advantage of our multicast and other advanced service features. We believe our subscribers will pay for the delivery of content such as music, movies and software multicast to their homes. We will also target communities of interest, composed of large groups of subscribers with common

interests, such as ethnic and religious groups, regional sports fans and music enthusiasts that who will pay premium rates to receive customized video and interactive content. While our base service offering will be adequate for many users, we believe that some subscribers, including many small office/home office users, will pay to upgrade their service to higher bandwidth offerings at a premium price.

#### *Continue to Enhance our Subscribers' StarBand Experience*

We intend to continuously improve our subscribers' StarBand experience by maintaining our technological leadership. To improve the subscriber's Internet browsing experience, we are taking advantage of Gilat's proprietary software that increases the rate at which web pages display on the user's personal computer screen and other network features, like the StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup>, that take advantage of our multicasting capabilities. We are currently working with Gilat on our next-generation StarBand modem that will feature smaller subscriber electronics and improved interfaces. We are also collaborating with Gilat and EchoStar to develop a single modem with built-in storage that will provide for two-way interactive television combined with Internet access. By constantly improving the subscriber experience through technological leadership, we intend to continue growing the size and loyalty of our subscriber base.

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##### *Pursue Additional Distribution and Content Partnerships*

We intend to strengthen our position in the high-speed Internet access market by aggressively pursuing new partnerships to expand our distribution channels and increase our access to rich media content. We are currently in discussions with several additional high-volume retailers to broaden distribution of both the Internet-only and bundled Internet/ DISH entertainment services. We also intend to pursue relationships with other Internet service providers that will provide either a wholesale or co-branded retail service offering. Simultaneously, we are engaged in discussions with a number of established content providers who are interested in offering rich media content initially through our multicasting service and eventually through our StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> service. By emphasizing additional distribution channels and content partners, we intend to increase the availability of our service offerings, substantially differentiate our service, further accelerate subscriber growth and improve the subscriber experience.

##### **Our Strategic Partners**

We began operations in April 2000 upon the consummation of equity investments in our company by our three founding investment and strategic partners: Gilat Satellite Networks, Microsoft Corporation and EchoStar Communications. These strategic partners provide us with proprietary proven technology, access to a large existing customer base, strong consumer brand names and broad retail and wholesale distribution channels.

*Gilat*

Gilat, an Israel-based company listed on Nasdaq, is a leading provider of telecommunications solutions based on satellite network technology and delivers satellite-based, end-to-end enterprise networking and rural telephony solutions to customers across six continents. In addition, Gilat markets interactive broadband data services to its enterprise customers through Spacenet Inc., its wholly-owned subsidiary. Gilat is an industry leader in the development of high-speed satellite-based Internet technology, and has a reputation for highly reliable, low-cost satellite hardware.

Gilat was early to recognize the substantial business opportunity available by targeting the large, underserved consumer and small office/home office high-speed Internet access market. As a result, Gilat founded our company to pursue this opportunity, and our service is based upon satellite networking technology it developed, and hardware and software it manufactures. We believe our partnership with Gilat has allowed us to be first to market and will help us to maintain our competitive advantage as we scale the business and introduce new services and technologies. Our business represents a significant opportunity for Gilat to expand its market for satellite networking solutions and we expect to become one of its largest customers.

In February 2000, we entered into a five-year supply agreement with Gilat and Spacenet. The Gilat supply agreement sets forth the commercial terms under which we will offer StarBand service outside our arrangement with MSN, and the terms under which Gilat and Spacenet provide us with licenses, intellectual property and satellite capacity on the GE Americom GE4 satellite for that purpose. In addition, Spacenet and Gilat have agreed not to offer services that compete with our service to residential and small office/home office customers throughout North America.

We expect to enter into a four-year master supply and services agreement with Gilat and Spacenet that will amend the terms under which they supply products and services to us. This agreement will automatically renew for two-year periods unless terminated by one of these parties. Under this agreement, Gilat and Spacenet will provide equipment, technology and systems that we will use in our business and operations. Gilat and Spacenet will also provide us with technical and administrative services and research and development support. Gilat and Spacenet will grant us exclusive rights throughout the United States and Canada to the technology required to provide our services, and we will purchase most of the equipment and services necessary for our business exclusively from Gilat and Spacenet. In exchange, Gilat has committed to deliver our consumer modems in quantities specified by us in rolling quarterly forecasts. Gilat and Spacenet also granted us the right to provide service in Mexico. We are currently considering

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contributing these rights to an affiliate which has the rights to provide similar services throughout the rest of Latin America in exchange for a minority equity interest in this affiliate.

In addition to operating our network operations center and leasing facilities to us, Spacenet will grant us a sublicense to use its enterprise resource planning system and the software with which we perform back-office functions. In the future, we may provide Spacenet with equipment and services for re-sale to enterprise and small office/home office customers.

### *Microsoft*

Microsoft, a Redmond, Washington-based public company, develops, manufactures, licenses and supports a wide range of software products for a multitude of computing devices. Microsoft's online efforts, which serve approximately 3 million subscribers, include The Microsoft Network L.L.C., or MSN, network of Internet products and services, e-commerce platforms and alliances with companies involved with high-speed Internet access and various forms of digital interactivity. We believe our relationship with Microsoft will give us immediate access to a large number of potential subscribers upon the nationwide commercial launch of our service.

As a nationwide Internet service provider, MSN established a strategy to offer high-speed Internet access to its subscribers, regardless of their location. MSN has partnered with other broadband service providers to bundle the MSN service with their high-speed access. Microsoft selected us as its satellite-based high-speed Internet access provider for MSN sales due to our ability to offer service on a nationwide basis, particularly in areas where other high-speed alternatives are not available. MSN has an agreement with RadioShack to market and sell its Internet services in RadioShack stores. Microsoft is currently rolling out its MSN satellite-based product offering, MSN powered by StarBand, in RadioShack stores using the Internet access we provide to them under our wholesale agreement. Microsoft may offer our service in the future through many of its other retail distribution channels.

In March 2000, we and Gilat entered into a broadband supply agreement with MSN governing the commercial terms pursuant to which we will provide MSN with wholesale broadband access. The term of the agreement is four years and renews automatically for additional one year terms unless terminated earlier by one of the parties. This agreement establishes the material terms and conditions of this relationship, such as MSN's purchase of consumer premises equipment, the rates MSN pays us for wholesale monthly Internet access and exclusivity arrangements. We and MSN have recently agreed in principle to amend this agreement and we are currently negotiating a definitive agreement. We expect that the revised agreement will provide that MSN must purchase minimum quantities of consumer premises equipment once we achieve a single production related milestone and amend the exclusivity arrangements.

### *EchoStar/ DISH*

EchoStar, a Denver, Colorado-based public company, is the second largest provider of direct broadcast satellite television services in the United States through its DISH network. EchoStar is also an international manufacturer of digital satellite receiver systems and a provider of other satellite services. We will specifically target EchoStar's DISH customer base, which, we believe, already appreciates the benefits of other satellite-based services and is likely to consider purchasing our satellite-based Internet access. In addition, this relationship provides us with access to the over 20,000 DISH retailers which we have authorized to sell our service. As a result of our partnership, we believe we will benefit from EchoStar's substantial experience in launching, marketing and installing a satellite-based service for customers nationwide.

Through its partnership with us, EchoStar will be able to offer our high-speed Internet access services to DISH's over 4.5 million U.S. direct broadcast satellite television subscribers. DISH's subscriber base has been growing at a rate of approximately 150,000 subscribers per month. The ability to offer high-speed Internet service is a key part of DISH's strategy and protects it against

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broadcast satellite television and broadband providers on DISH's subscriber base. In addition, our partnership with DISH offers both parties the opportunity to realize incremental revenues from cross-selling services to each other's subscribers.

We, Gilat and EchoStar entered into a memorandum of agreement on February 22, 2000 setting forth the terms under which the parties agreed, pending execution of definitive agreements, to cooperate in providing high-speed Internet access to DISH's direct broadcast satellite television customers through the StarBand network. This arrangement with EchoStar expires on March 31, 2001. We are currently negotiating with EchoStar for an extension of this agreement. Pursuant to this arrangement, EchoStar is marketing our service to their customers and DISH retailers and we will market DISH's satellite television programming service together with our high-speed Internet access service. EchoStar has made no commitments to us and is subject to no penalties if it ceases to sell our service. EchoStar and Gilat are also currently conducting research and development of a product to provide our Internet service through a TV-centric platform in the future. This memorandum of agreement contains provisions which restrict us and EchoStar from entering into co-marketing relationships with competitors of each other for a limited time.

**The StarBand Experience**

*Service Features*

We believe we offer consumers a new category of Internet service which combines high-speed Internet access with our multicast content delivery service. We utilize proven satellite technology to provide reliable and cost-effective service to subscribers nationwide under the StarBand brand and through our partners, including MSN and EchoStar.

Our StarBand services include:

- reliable, always-on, high-speed Internet access nationwide via satellite at downstream speeds of up to 500 kilobits per second, with a peak-hour service goal of at least a 150 kilobits per second downstream, and upstream speeds of up to 150 kilobits per second;
- customized rich media content multicast at high speeds directly to our subscribers' computers;
- a personalized home page and customized Internet browser; and
- tiered bandwidth and premium service packages.

Our service offering includes all equipment and software necessary to establish and maintain an always-on, high-speed Internet connection. Our retail customers will be able to access the Internet through our home page, which the subscriber can personalize to include stock quotes, weather,

news and other content of interest. Our homepage will also enable our subscribers to order service upgrades or content subscriptions, add e-mail accounts, create personal web pages and make billing inquiries. Other subscribers will have access to the StarBand homepage by a single click from their homepage portal. We are currently developing a customized browser that will enable our subscribers to navigate the Internet and simultaneously access multicast content, including media streams, using an electronic programming guide.

Next year, we plan to introduce StarBand Biz, a premium service package targeted primarily toward small office/home office subscribers. In addition, we expect to offer a specially packaged home local area network solution with additional bandwidth and shared access to the StarBand modem to provide enhanced service to subscribers with multiple personal computers.

#### *Multicast and StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup>*

Our service is significantly enhanced by the unique abilities of our one-hop satellite network architecture. Unlike terrestrial networks, satellite networks have the ability to multicast, or simultaneously send common content, to any number of designated subscribers. Our solution is unique in its ability to

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distribute high-bandwidth content directly to a subscriber's personal computer or other home storage device independent of the terrestrial infrastructure. Our model allows us to expand the edge of the Internet all the way to our subscribers' homes and avoid the congestion inherent in the terrestrial networks. Experiments on terrestrial networks similar to multicast, known as push technologies, have failed until now because they require additional bandwidth for each user and drain the operating resources of the user's personal computer, dramatically slowing down Internet browsing. In contrast, our multicast capabilities create an unparalleled experience by providing a high-speed overlay network that does not limit bandwidth available for Internet browsing.

We intend to aggregate and filter high quality content for our subscribers through our multicasting capabilities. Internet users often find it difficult to identify the best sources of broadband content and services. Though individual Internet users generally seek content personalized to his or her individual interests, Internet users as a group often seek common content from popular web sites that are visited by many users each day. We plan to offer a menu of multicast services that will feature high quality content at ultra-high speeds that appeal to broad groups of subscribers. As a result, we expect to significantly enhance the perceived value of our services and distinguish ourselves from other Internet access services by delivering personalized, yet commonly requested, high quality content to our subscribers.

We are actively working with Gilat to complete the development of the StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> in 2001. Building upon the multicast content delivery system, the StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> will offer our subscribers a menu of high quality content and rich data files that can be simultaneously delivered at specified times to all subscribers who have placed a request. We will offer the available content to subscribers at significantly higher speeds than our basic Internet access service. In addition to

large data files such as software applications, we expect to offer some of the most popular and bandwidth-intensive content on the Internet which will be ordered via an electronic programming guide. After delivery of the content to the subscribers, they may store it on their personal computer or other local storage device. Multimedia offerings such as the recent presidential debates, popular movies, best selling books or leading audio files might be among the available choices.

### *Multicast and StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> Applications*

Our initial plan is to use our multicasting and StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> capabilities to deliver the following services:

- media streaming;
- reliable distribution of large data files; and
- distribution of common content for local caching.

Media streaming is a distribution process that allows simultaneous broadcasting and playback of video and audio content. The terrestrial Internet infrastructure was not designed to support the traffic load created by broadcasting full motion video or high-fidelity audio. By contrast, we believe our multicasting capabilities ideally position us to offer popular audio and video streams to our subscribers. For example, multicasting enables the network to simultaneously transmit a live web event, such as a fashion show or fast-breaking news story, to any number of designated subscribers at a superior quality to what they would receive through a broadband terrestrial Internet connection. Replays of the web event could also be sent to subscribers. In many instances, we believe our subscribers may pay additional fees for access to this and other premium content.

We believe our multicast and StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> features provide our subscribers quicker, more reliable and more efficient access to large data files, including software and multimedia games, when compared to other electronic or traditional content delivery methods. For example, software applications and games featuring realistic three-dimensional graphics can often consist of files that are 100MB or more in size. This size often causes transmission difficulties over dial-up or broadband Internet connections, and a customer might otherwise have no alternative for receiving the file except for physical delivery of a CD-ROM or other physical storage media. Through the multicast and StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> content delivery

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systems, however, our subscribers would be able to enjoy the convenience of high-speed electronic access to the large data file without the significant costs of packaging and mailing physical storage media. Software companies, such as Microsoft, and our subscribers may also see significant value in our ability to reliably deliver large data files to any number of geographically dispersed locations at once.



Using our multicast and StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> capabilities, we can deliver the most popular content to our subscribers for storage in their personal computer or other local storage device. By learning from the common usage patterns of our subscribers, we may regularly multicast the most often requested web content such as news, popular web services and other content to further enhance the subscriber experience and reduce unnecessary demands on our two-way capacity. In this way, our subscribers may avoid potential congestion over the terrestrial network as we expand the edge of the Internet directly to them. We intend to use these capabilities to, among other things, enable the high-speed delivery of specific content targeted to select interest groups who may be dispersed across the entire United States but united by a common interest or sense of community, such as regional sports team fans, religious groups or ethnic groups.

### **Marketing, Sales and Distribution**

We initially intend to market, sell and distribute our wholesale and retail offerings through existing channels with our strategic partners that currently provide a nationwide network of over 27,000 outlets covering our core rural and suburban target markets. We also expect to add additional retail channels such as consumer electronic chains, direct-to-consumer distribution and major account sales.

#### *Wholesale Service Offering*

We offer our services on a wholesale basis to large Internet service providers or other access providers to complement their existing offerings. The basic components of our wholesale offering are customer premises equipment, satellite network transmission services and second-level help desk services. We also have the ability to provide additional services to our wholesale customers, such as Internet access, billing and first-level help desk services for an additional fee. Under our typical wholesale arrangements, our wholesale customer will buy our customer premises equipment and pay us a monthly fee per subscriber for our high speed satellite transmission services. In the wholesale model, we would not typically fund subscriber acquisition costs, market the service or provide first-level customer support or pay for tier one access from our hub to the Internet. Because we provide fewer services than in the retail channel, we charge a substantially reduced monthly subscriber fee. We currently allow our wholesale customers to offer private label or co-branded services.

MSN is our first wholesale customer which will package, price and promote the offering under its MSN brand to the marketplace through RadioShack and other retail organizations. RadioShack will initially market MSNHigh Speed Internet, powered by StarBand, a service/hardware package comprised of a Compaq PC required to be purchased from RadioShack for approximately \$899, a StarBand satellite system costing approximately \$299, and a one-year MSN service contract of approximately \$59.95/month. MSN, as the Internet service provider, will provide first-level help desk assistance and all billing services to subscribers. We will provide the high-speed transmission for MSN from our hub via our satellite network to the MSN subscriber.

On September 27, 2000, MSN and RadioShack jointly announced the nationwide launch of the MSN high-speed Internet service through RadioShack. In late October 2000, we will begin delivery of our service through this channel. At present, we have installed satellite demonstration capabilities at over 3,500 RadioShack locations. We have also completed training of over 75% of sales management, including the important RadioShack franchisee group, which we believe reaches the core demographic of our targeted suburban and rural Internet customers. By year-end, we expect

nearly 5,000 RadioShack locations to be outfitted with satellite-ready Microsoft Internet Centers featuring self-paced and sales-assisted tutorials on MSN's high-speed Internet access.

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*Retail Service Offering*

We also offer our services through our retail channel in which we sell our branded services directly to consumers. Our retail arrangements are structured so that our per subscriber revenues are higher than the wholesale channel although, we are required to subsidize more of the associated subscriber acquisition costs. Typically, our distribution arrangements in this channel are with consumer electronics stores and other direct-to-consumer retailers. Components of our retail service include high-speed Internet access, customer premises equipment and features we offer as an Internet service provider.

EchoStar is our first retail distribution channel. Beginning in late fall 2000, we intend to sell our services through 20,000 DISH retailers nationwide. Together with DISH, we also will offer bundled direct broadcast satellite television and Internet services. Initially, we expect DISH retailers to sell complete StarBand systems at a suggested retail price of \$399. Our monthly Internet-only service fee will be approximately \$69.95. Our price levels initially reflect the large unmet demand that we believe exists for two-way high-speed Internet access, though we expect that we will lower our prices to retail customers in the future as market conditions change. We expect that additional promotional and discounted rates will be available for subscribers receiving bundled services. Professional installation is required and is paid directly to the installers at a suggested retail price of \$175.

We and DISH have already jointly installed over 1,500 dealer locations with operational demonstration systems and plan to continue installing StarBand demonstration systems in additional retail locations. Currently, we are training DISH retailers to sell our services and to install the subscriber hardware. DISH retailers have the option to stock inventory, which could allow same-day installation and activation of our service.

We also plan to sell our services through other retail channels. Beginning in 2001, we expect our customers to be able to order our services directly over the Internet. Our on-line sales capability will enable all of our retail subscribers to order subscription services and other individualized or premium services. Additionally, we are currently pursuing relationships with large, high-volume consumer electronics chain stores and we are recruiting and training a direct sales force.

**Provisioning and Customer Support**

*Logistics*

We will maintain inventory levels consistent with our forecasts and intend to minimize inventory levels while at the same time maintaining our ability to quickly fill subscriber orders. Channel Master, a leading manufacturer of satellite dishes in the U.S. marketplace, provides us with

the antennas, mounts, and warehousing and consolidation services. Gilat ships StarBand customer electronics directly to Channel Master, where they are packaged with the satellite dish antenna and mount, creating a customer premises kit. Channel Master's facility currently serves as our primary U.S. warehouse, from which the customer premises kits are shipped to our customers at our direction.

Both EchoStar and MSN will keep limited inventory of our product at their warehouses, and we will ensure that additional product is available at the Channel Master warehouse to react to variations in demand.

#### *Installation and Maintenance*

We outsource installations to third parties using over 8,000 experienced satellite installation professionals. Installation of all equipment and software necessary to begin using our service generally takes less than three hours, and we intend to shorten that time period. We have trained and qualified several nationwide and regional installation companies, including EchoStar's DISH Network Service Corp. and RadioShack's Amerilink subsidiary, as well as many of the individual DISH retailers to ensure high-quality nationwide coverage and depth in key markets. The RadioShack Amerilink organization will provide installation services for the MSN service offering. StarBand quality control teams are responsible for the overall company goal of single-visit, error-free installation and these teams spot check actual

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subscriber installations. In the future, we expect to offer a self-installation option as an alternative to third party installation.

We intend to deliver an Internet access service that is virtually trouble free for our subscribers. In order to reduce costly and frustrating on-site visits, we intend to provide self-healing diagnostic software but will deploy a qualified technician when an on-site maintenance visit is required. We will offer warranty plans to cover all of our customer premises equipment.

#### *Customer Support and Billing*

We provide customer support through the Marietta, Georgia central network operations center. This facility provides both first-level and second-level customer support. We staff our customer call center with highly trained customer service representatives 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our customer service representatives have the capability to access the network management system, which gives them real-time access to network performance and subscriber information. We recently installed resource management software from Siebel Systems that maintains all maintenance and call activity data for each of our subscribers individually. We will contract with an outsourced customer service center to address pre-sale and non-network related issues, improve sales support, administer email addresses and provide billing support when applicable.

Billing of StarBand subscribers will be performed by either our partners or StarBand, according

to our distribution agreements. In our initial distribution channels, EchoStar will generate a co-branded bill for our subscribers, and MSN will bill its subscribers directly. In other future channels, such as our on-line channel, StarBand will directly bill and collect from its subscribers using our SAP enterprise resource planning and other related systems.

## Network Overview

The network, based upon a proven design developed by Gilat and currently operated by Spacenet pursuant to a telecommunications services agreement, is composed of three main components: satellite capacity, network operations centers and the customer premises equipment.

### *Satellite Capacity*

Satellite capacity provides the transmission medium for the network and provides the bandwidth over which our subscribers communicate with the Internet through the network operations center. We introduced our service by leasing, directly and through Spacenet, capacity on existing satellites that provide service coverage throughout North America. In the future, we also intend to offer our service via leased next-generation satellites that will increase our network capacity and the bandwidth available to our subscribers.

We lease satellite capacity in large increments known as transponders. A transponder serves as a reflector by receiving a signal, amplifying the signal and retransmitting it to or from the subscriber and the network operations center. Our satellite capacity currently operates in the Ku band frequency. The Ku band frequency is more resistant to weather interference and therefore limits satellite service interruption known as "rain fade." Satellite companies are developing next-generation satellites that will operate in a higher frequency known as Ka band. There is currently more unused frequency in the Ka band. However, it is less resistant to weather interference than Ku band. Gilat is designing a next-generation hybrid satellite that will use both Ku band and Ka band frequencies to take advantage of the benefits of each.

*Allocation of Transponder Space.* We transmit communications across our network using satellite transponders that allow multiple users to share the same bandwidth. Our network loading assumptions take into account a number of factors. Based on the experience of our partners in providing Internet access and satellite Internet protocol networks, we anticipate that only a subset of our user base will be actively online at any time. Because Internet traffic is bursty, or intermittent, with users ordering and then reading delivered content, a number of users can share bandwidth without perceiving any reduction in speed. As

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the number of users increases and becomes more geographically dispersed, we are able to achieve statistical gains on our loading assumptions. Our centralized network architecture permits us to optimize each subscriber's experience and our satellite capacity planning by aggregating users of different characteristics, such as time zone location or day versus evening users, onto the same transponder.

*Maybe not... if as  
currently understood, Internet  
traffic is self-similar.*

Our business model is based on achieving an economical satellite capacity cost per subscriber that reflects the number of subscribers sharing bandwidth and our cost of satellite capacity. Over the next two years we intend to implement a series of software and hardware improvements for the network developed by Gilat. One of Gilat's software improvements reduces network traffic by reducing repetitive administrative network acknowledgements required by Internet protocols and instead transmits only the actual content. We expect that this and other improvements will enable us to increase the number of subscribers that we allocate to a transponder from 7,500 to a target of approximately 20,000 over time, thus decreasing our space segment cost per subscriber.

*Current Satellite Capacity.* Our network currently operates on existing Ku band frequency transponders leased by Spacenet from GE Americom on the GE4 satellite located at the 105(Logo) West longitude orbital location. Spacenet has a five-year lease for up to six Ku band transponders on this satellite. In addition, we recently signed an agreement with Loral Skynet to lease up to 17 Ku band transponders on the Telstar 7 satellite located at the 129(Logo) West longitude orbital location. This lease has a seven-year term with options to extend the lease for the life of the satellite, which generally will be approximately an additional six years. Subject to market availability, pricing and other considerations, we intend to lease additional Ku capacity as necessary.

*Next-Generation Satellite Capacity.* In the future we intend to use next-generation satellites engineered as a hybrid system that incorporates the strengths of both Ku band and Ka band frequencies in order to increase the capacity of our system and lower the cost of our network. This hybrid satellite system features a design that utilizes the Ka band frequency between the hubs and the satellite and the Ku band frequency between the satellite and the subscriber's customer premises equipment. Use of Ka band between the hubs and the satellite gives us the ability to increase the amount of bandwidth that we provide to our subscribers. Use of Ku band technology for transmissions between subscriber locations and the satellite allows us to overcome most weather-related interference and use existing low-cost, highly reliable Ku band equipment at our subscribers' homes.

Each hybrid satellite will communicate to six zones with four Ku beams each, enabling the reuse of frequency over 24 beams. Our two initial hybrid satellites will have a combined total capacity of up to 6.2 Gigabits per second downstream from the Internet to our subscribers and up to 2.5 Gigabits per second upstream from the subscribers to the satellite. These satellites also will have six Ka spot beams from the satellite to separate hubs, each connected to the Internet. Our hybrid satellites will also have nationwide beams for multicast transmissions of over 40 megabits per second. Because both satellites will be in a single orbital location, we will be able to provide a backup system for our subscribers. However, in the case of a failure of either satellite, subscribers may temporarily experience a lower data rate until full service is restored.

We intend these hybrid satellites, tentatively called StarBand 1 and StarBand 2, to be built, launched, and operated by an established satellite industry partner. We intend to lease capacity on these satellites under pre-established terms that are presently being negotiated. We currently anticipate that these satellites will be in service by late 2002.

#### *Network Operations Centers*

The main network operations center, located in Marietta, Georgia, serves as the central point

from which we manage the nationwide network. The network operations center includes the earth station satellite networking equipment and engineering and operations staff which continuously monitors and optimizes the network performance. The satellite networking equipment receives and processes the data sent to us by our users via the satellite. We use sophisticated, high-capacity satellite data networking switches to direct traffic over our network, which are connected from the network operations center via a pair of high-speed redundant links to the Internet.

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Some of our early subscribers will be served from a Spacenet managed network operations center located in McLean, Virginia. Backbone connectivity at this facility features a dual, fully redundant connection. We expect this network operations center to transition to the Marietta, Georgia facility in early 2001. Our network operations centers are presently staffed by Spacenet's highly experienced satellite network engineers.

In the future, when we begin to use the hybrid satellites, each of the six Ka band spot beams will require a separate earth station and network switching equipment. These six facilities will be connected terrestrially to the Marietta network operations center. High-capacity fiber optic cables will connect each of the facilities to the Internet backbone.

#### *Customer Premises Equipment*

Our customer premises equipment enables our subscribers to send and receive data from and to the Internet via satellite transponders. This equipment consists of an external satellite modem or a pair of internal personal computer cards, connected to a satellite dish antenna by two coaxial cables.

We are introducing our nationwide service by offering two distinct personal computer connection devices. All subscribers other than those acquiring our service through RadioShack will require a StarBand modem, which is an external box with an industry standard universal serial bus interface to allow for plug-and-play functionality with the subscriber's personal computer. Subscribers who acquire our service through the RadioShack channel will be required to purchase a personal computer from RadioShack with the StarBand personal computer cards already integrated into the computer.

We plan to introduce a second-generation StarBand modem with a universal serial bus connection in 2001. Gilat is simplifying the components of its current StarBand modem into a smaller and aesthetically pleasing package and we are working with Gilat to reduce the cost as low as possible.

We are working with EchoStar to jointly introduce a satellite-based home networking gateway that will provide both direct broadcast satellite television and high-speed Internet access. We expect this single box design to connect to the consumer's television, personal computer and other Internet appliances and include a large hard drive for downloading and storing large files such as feature-length films.

Our dish antenna unit is installed outdoors, typically on a roof or ground pole mount. The antenna requires a clear view of the southern sky in order to have line-of-sight to the satellites carrying our services. The antenna unit will initially measure 0.75m in diameter, although we expect this size to be reduced eventually to 0.6m.

### **Competition**

Although we believe we currently face no direct competition from any other nationwide, two-way satellite high-speed Internet access provider in the consumer marketplace, the overall market for consumer Internet access is highly competitive. While our current strategy is to focus on customers in those areas underserved by terrestrial networks, we expect that our target markets will become more competitive in the future. Our basis for competition includes:

- availability of service;
- no pre-qualifications to receive the service;
- the user's Internet experience;
- bundling of Internet service with television services; and
- reliability and consistency of service from installation throughout the service life.

We face competition from traditional telephone companies, cable modem service providers, competitive local exchange carriers, wireless communication companies and satellite service providers. Many of our competitors have longer operating histories and greater financial, technical, marketing and

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other resources than we do and thus may be able to respond more quickly to new or changing opportunities and customer requirements.

#### ***Traditional Telephone Companies***

The traditional telephone companies represent strong competition in all of our target market areas as providers of dial-up Internet access. In particular, the traditional telephone companies have an established brand name in their service areas and own their copper lines. As they continue rolling out DSL services, they will increasingly be able to bundle their DSL services with voice services provided to their existing customers.

#### ***Cable Modem Service Providers***

Cable modem service providers such as Roadrunner, Excite@Home Network and MediaOne, and their respective cable partners, are deploying high-speed Internet access services over hybrid

fiber coaxial cable networks. These networks have become the primary architecture utilized by cable operators in recent and ongoing upgrades of their systems. Where deployed, these networks provide higher-speed Internet access than we provide. We believe the cable modem service providers face a number of challenges, such as the inability to offer service on a nationwide basis. Also, much of the current cable infrastructure in the United States must be upgraded to support cable modems, a process that we believe will be expensive and time-consuming.

#### *Competitive Local Exchange Carriers*

Many competitive local exchange carriers such as Covad Communications, Rhythms NetConnections and NorthPoint Communications offer high-speed digital services. Their ability to provide service requires interconnection agreements with the traditional telephone companies, pursuant to which they must acquire central office space and install DSL hardware. We believe this requirement will result in competitive local exchange carriers focusing primarily on areas of high density.

#### *Wireless Providers*

We may face competition from terrestrial wireless services, including 2 GHz and 28 GHz wireless cable services, Multi-channel Microwave Distribution System, or MMDS, and Local Multi-channel Distribution System, or LMDS, and 18 GHz and 39 GHz point-to-point microwave systems. The FCC is currently considering new rules to permit MMDS licensees to use their systems to offer two-way services, including high-speed data, rather than solely to provide one-way video services. The FCC has also recently auctioned spectrum for LMDS services in all markets. This spectrum is expected to be used for wireless cable and telephony services, including high-speed digital services. We believe it is unlikely that a nationwide wireless provider will emerge in the near future because these licenses are awarded on a region-to-region basis.

#### *Satellite-Based Systems*

We may face competition from other providers of satellite services, including Hughes Communications and WildBlue. We believe our competitors will have data networking expertise. Hughes has significant experience in running satellite data networking services, and may enter the market soon with a two-way Ku band-based consumer offering. WildBlue has announced plans to launch a satellite-based Internet service in 2002, but has not yet developed its satellite networking infrastructure. Other potential satellite-based competitors could include Teledesic, Cyberstar, Skybridge, Tachyon and Astrolink.

#### **Government Regulation**

Our satellite network uses earth stations that transmit and receive radio signals (the earth segment) and satellite space stations that relay these signals between earth stations (the space segment). Pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, the FCC regulates the use of radio spectrum in the United States, including satellite communications. Space stations and transmitting earth stations, as distinguished



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from receive-only stations, must be authorized by the FCC. Installation of satellite antennas may also be subject to state and local regulations such as zoning ordinances.

We are not an FCC licensee and do not hold any authorizations to operate earth stations or satellites. We obtain the satellite communications links used to provide our services pursuant to a services agreement with Gilat and Spacenet Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Gilat. Spacenet and its subsidiaries hold licenses for the earth stations used for our service and Spacenet provides some of our satellite capacity pursuant to contracts with owners of U.S.-licensed satellites.

Earth station licenses are granted for ten-year terms. The FCC generally renews these licenses routinely, but there is no guarantee that they will be renewed or that renewals will be for full terms. Major changes in operations and earth station facilities require preapproval by the FCC and a modification to the applicable FCC licenses.

*Do these blanket licenses apply to residential service?*  
Subsidiaries of Spacenet hold licenses for several network operations center stations, which exchange data with many users, connect the users to the Internet backbone and control the communications equipment at subscriber locations. Subsidiaries of Spacenet also hold blanket domestic licenses issued by the FCC for several types of customer premises equipment that we use to provide our service, including 0.75m and 0.96m dish antennas. Customer premises equipment is located on each customer's premises and communicates with only one of the network operations centers via satellite. Each blanket license covers many subscriber remote antennas installed within the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Very small aperture terminal, or VSAT, remote stations use small dish antennas that are suited for residential and other non-industrial areas. The type of VSAT dish antenna that each customer needs is determined by geographic location. The FCC routinely approves dish antennas that conform to rules specifying beamwidth requirements or, alternatively, that do not conform to the rules but which the licensee demonstrates are compatible with the FCC's satellite spacing policy. The larger VSAT remote dish antennas used for our service conform to the beamwidth rules. The FCC approved the two smallest VSAT remote dish antennas used for our service, 0.96m and 0.75m designs, on the required showing. The FCC granted blanket licenses for these two VSAT dish antennas in June and July 2000 for use in up to 20,000 locations, conditioned upon the outcome of a public proceeding concerning the type of network access scheme used by many satellite data networks. A subsidiary of Spacenet currently has an application on file with the FCC to seek authority for communications with Telstar 7 and increase the number of 0.75m remote user locations Spacenet may operate to 100,000.

*Why would they not ask for authority to more than 100,000 sites... 10 million is more like it*  
The FCC requires satellite communications systems to operate in a way that does not cause harmful interference with the operation of other satellites. Earlier this year, the FCC staff raised a question whether a provision of the FCC rules could be read to prohibit a longstanding industry practice regarding network access schemes (the conventions that determine when and how remote stations communicate with the satellite). In granting the licenses for the 0.96m and 0.75m VSAT remote dish antennas, the FCC waived the rule to the extent that it might be construed to prohibit the use of industry-standard network access schemes and conditioned the licenses on the outcome of the pending proceeding. At the staff's request, Spacenet petitioned the FCC for a declaratory ruling interpreting the rules to permit the longstanding industry practice. The public comment

period ended on June 14, 2000, and the satellite industry supported granting the type of relief sought by Spacenet. We expect FCC action before the end of the year. It is not possible to predict precisely the manner in which the FCC will resolve this issue.

The FCC has established guidelines for human exposure to radio frequency energy. Between the feed horn and the reflector of our VSAT dish antennas, the radio frequency exposure exceeds the acceptable level established by the FCC. There is a risk of injury to anyone who places part of their body in this area of the VSAT dish antenna for a prolonged period of time. Spacenet has provided the FCC with information concerning the typical installation and placement of the dish antennas used for our service and the technical safeguards and warnings that we will use to minimize the risk of injury. We believe that these methods will satisfy the FCC or that we, together with Gilat, can develop procedures to satisfy the FCC's concerns.

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Some localities attempt to impose restrictions on the installation of satellite dish antennas, usually in the form of zoning ordinances. While not directly regulating us, those restrictions might reduce market demand for our service. The FCC has adopted rules limiting the circumstances under which restrictions can be imposed and has preempted many types of restrictions entirely. The FCC is also considering further action to prevent localities from interfering with the federal interest in widespread and competitive availability of broadband services.

On September 28, 2000, the FCC instituted a public proceeding inquiring as to whether companies offering high-speed data networks should be required to make their networks available generally to any Internet service provider that would like to use them to reach customers or whether this access will be available on the open market without regulation. There is no way to determine how the FCC will decide this issue. It may, after receiving public comment, elect not to impose any regulatory requirements. If, however, the FCC decides that high-speed data networks used to provide access to the Internet should be made available generally to Internet service providers, we may be required to provide our wholesale service to any Internet service provider that requests it, including entities that compete with us and with MSN. At this point, however, it is not possible to predict whether or when such regulations will be adopted or the precise obligations they may impose on us.

The FCC also regulates telecommunications common carriers under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. Providers of Internet access services, such as the service we offer, are not subject to regulation under Title II. The FCC does, however, have the power to impose some forms of regulation on providers of Internet access services under Title I of the Communications Act, which gives the FCC the power to regulate interstate communications by wire or radio. As an Internet service provider, we are potentially subject to such regulation. To date, the FCC has avoided regulation of Internet service providers, but there is no guarantee that the FCC will continue to refrain from regulating them or some of their services in the future.

Currently, one legitimate ground for local regulation is safety. While localities have generally not regulated the emission of radio frequency energy, the possibility exists that local jurisdictions

may restrict the installation of transmitting earth stations to achieve legitimate safety goals. We believe it is unlikely that such a restriction could be used to prevent installation of the VSAT remote stations used for our service because of the very low safety risk posed by the antennas.

### **Technology and Licensing**

Gilat is our primary technology partner and will continue research and development projects with us and on our behalf. Gilat research and development teams are located in both Israel and the United States, and include satellite experts in the field of hardware development, satellite access software and application protocols such as Internet Protocol. They are working with us to ensure continued technological leadership. Gilat has agreed to continue research and development of our current products and we have agreed to pay a portion of the research and development costs. One major research and development effort is the multicast software, including the future StarBand Carousel<sup>SM</sup> through which content will be multicast on a scheduled basis.

### **Employees**

As of August 31, 2000 we had 127 full-time employees and a total of 40 consultants and other individuals working for us pursuant to management services agreements. For operational reasons, during our development stage, all of our employees were leased from Spacenet. Substantially all of these personnel will be transferred to our direct payroll prior to the end of 2000. Our agreement with Spacenet requires us to make timely payment of the full cost incurred by Spacenet including salary, bonuses, benefits, taxes, processing costs and related items. Of that number, 70 are based in our offices in McLean, Virginia, and 95 are based in Marietta, Georgia. We have 12 employees in our sales force and 22 in research and engineering. None of our employees is a party to a collective bargaining agreement, and we

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have never experienced a work stoppage. We consider our relationship with our employees to be good and have not experienced any interruptions of operations due to labor disagreements.

### **Properties**

Our corporate headquarters facility of approximately 42,000 square feet is located in McLean, Virginia. Spacenet leases the McLean facility from a third party and we occupy the premises pursuant to a sublease with Spacenet under which we pay Spacenet the same price that they pay under their lease. The lease for this facility expires in April 2005 with an option for renewal. In addition, we occupy a facility of approximately 58,000 square feet in Marietta, Georgia, where the network operations center is located. Spacenet leases the Marietta facility from a third party and we occupy the premises pursuant to a sublease with Spacenet under which we pay same price to Spacenet as they pay under their lease. The lease for this facility expires in September 2001.

### **Legal Proceedings**

On or about July 26, 2000, Globecom Systems, Inc. commenced a lawsuit against us in the Eastern District of New York alleging the willful infringement of their U.S. patent relating to a particular means for transferring and receiving communications signals between a remote terminal and a network operations center via satellite. This proceeding is at an early stage. We will respond appropriately to Globecom's complaint and vigorously defend our rights in this matter.

In addition, on May 8, 2000, Hughes Electronics Corporation commenced a lawsuit against Gilat and Spacenet in the District of Maryland, alleging willful infringement of four patents. We are not a party to the lawsuit and only one of the infringement claims may be relevant to the equipment we purchase from Gilat. A ruling against Gilat or Spacenet would significantly harm our business because we license technology from them that forms part of Hughes' claim. In particular, the single potentially relevant claim is related to personal computer based receiver cards that we use as part of our service offering to consumers. We may not be able to continue to use the technology if Hughes prevails on its claim regarding this technology. Gilat and Spacenet have filed motions for partial summary judgment on the issue of patent claim construction and the Court has scheduled a hearing on these motions for November 20, 2000.

Based upon our analysis of the information available to us at these preliminary stages and the technology we use to operate our network, we believe that these suits represent minimal risk to our business and financial condition.

We do not have insurance that would indemnify us for any liability that may be imposed in connection with the legal actions described above. Accordingly, if any of these events occur, it could result in a substantial reduction in our revenue and could result in losses over an extended period of time.

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**MANAGEMENT**

**Executive Officers and Directors**

The following table sets forth information with respect to our executive officers and directors: